

## Claims

We claim:

1. (currently amended) A mounting apparatus for attaching a blade to a generally-cutting implement, the apparatus comprising:

a) an elongated base member adapted to be positioned between the blade and the implement, the base member having a plurality of ~~vertical~~ apertures along its longitudinal dimension, a pair of the apertures sized to receive coupling members therein for coupling the blade to the base member; and

b) another one of the apertures having a defined surface shape, a cylindrical member passed through the one aperture, the cylindrical member having a first portion which is receivably seatable within the one aperture ~~and prevents, such seating substantially preventing~~ relative movement between the cylindrical member and the cutting implement, the cylindrical member enabling the transfer of power to the adapter so as to allow rotation of the blade.

2. (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein:

the first portion of the cylindrical member is a hexagonal extension; the extension being matingly engaged with the inner surface of the one aperture so as to distribute force which is to be applied to the cylindrical member to the base member in order to rotate the blade.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein:

~~the a second end portion~~ of the cylindrical member is securable to the implement by a nut so as to hold the cylindrical member, the base member and the blade in abutting relation to each other to be grasped thereagainst relative to the cutting implement.

4. (currently amended) A blade mounting device for a cutting implement, the device comprising:

a) an adapter having a first aperture therein;

b) a cylindrical member adapted to receive power from a power source and which including includes a longitudinally extending axis ~~and which~~ is inserted through and held within the aperture so as to allow the power to be transferred to the adapter;

c) second and third apertures provided on opposite sides of the first aperture, respectively, for receiving coupling members on either side of the longitudinal axis to hold the blade against the adapter.

5. (currently amended) The device as recited in claim 4 wherein:

the first aperture has an inner surface which is hexagonal in shape and which receives an matingly engagable extension provided on ~~an~~ a first end of the cylindrical member whereby contact between the ~~nut-extension~~ and the inner surface permits the transfer of force throughout the adapter so as to permit the blade connected therewith to be turned.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 5 wherein:

~~the a~~ second end of the cylindrical member is securable to the implement by a nut so as to hold each of the cylindrical member, the base member and the blade in abutment ~~to be grasped thereagainst relative to the cutting implement.~~

7. (canceled)

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